

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Izumi FUSEGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1722

Application No.: 10/510,695

Examiner: G. RAO

Filed: October 8, 2004

Docket No.: 121356

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SILICON SINGLE CRYSTAL, SILICON SINGLE CRYSTAL AND SILICON WAFER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 17, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 8-13, with traverse.

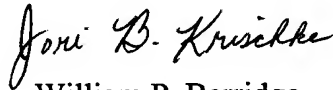
It is respectfully submitted that Groups I, II and III meet the unity of invention requirement, as was found by the searching authority in the International Application. Groups I, II and III form a single general inventive concept as required under PCT Rule 13.1 and involve the same or corresponding special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2. For example, all of the claim groups share the common feature of being directed to methods of manufacturing a silicon single crystal or a silicon wafer.

It is further respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 8-16 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made

without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 17, 2006

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